

Farm & Market Report

Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture

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March 2000

Century Farms Program Returns for 2000

Ten years ago, the Department of Food and Agriculture honored more than 50 farms with its Century Farms Program. Century Farms are farms that have been operated by the same family for a hundred years or more. The program was so well received that we have decided to bring it back for 2000.

All farms that were honored in the past will be sent applications to apply for this year's program as well. We need your help in determining which farms have passed the hundred-year milestone since the 1990 program.

If you think your farm may qualify as a Century Farm or if you think you know of one that does, please call us and let us know. The application process will be a brief one. Basically, we are looking for some historic facts on the farm such as when it was bought, the name of the original owner, previous and current crops, and any interesting stories associated with the farm.

We currently plan to honor the state's Century Farms and their owners at an event at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield in September. This program emphasizes the proud traditions of Massachusetts' agriculture, as well as its bright future. It also highlights farmers and their long-term commitment to the land.

For an application or more information, please contact Susan Allen, 617-626-1751, Susan.Allen@state.ma.us or Diane Baedeker Petit, 617-626-1752, Diane.Baedeker@state.ma.us. ■

Mass. Farm Fact

Sixty percent of Massachusetts maple syrup is sold retail by farmers directly to consumers. Twenty percent is sold wholesale and 20 percent is sold in bulk.



Marketing Cooperative and Slaughterhouse to be Developed

Although family livestock farms in the Northeast face many economic pressures, they do have an undeveloped advantage over farmers in other parts of the U.S. - markets. There is a large and diverse ethnic market opportunity in our region as well as a strong demand for specialty high-end meat and meat products.

Several farmers in western Massachusetts and New York recently came together to address the issue of undeveloped markets as well as the need for a slaughterhouse that would help them to service those markets.

With the declining number of USDA inspected slaughterhouses and increasingly limited slaughtering capacity at existing facilities in the Northeast, farmers are losing (or have lost) the most key component in direct marketing: processing.

The farmers that came together are responding by developing a marketing cooperative with livestock producers in Massachusetts, Vermont, New York and Connecticut. Their first project has been to secure the purchase of a slaughterhouse in northern Connecticut. The facility will be USDA inspected and able to slaughter and process sheep, goats, swine and cattle.

The cooperative intends to offer a schedule of services to members to include, but not limited to: marketing, livestock and meat delivery, development of regional or farm-specific labels, consumer and producer education.

For more information about the marketing cooperative and slaughterhouse, please contact Shannon M. Rice at 413-549-0155 (home) or 413-323-4531 (office). ■

Slaughterhouse Workshop Planned

The Department of Food and Agriculture in cooperation with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the USDA Compliance and Investigation Division will sponsor an informational workshop on slaughterhouse issues on Thursday, March 30th at Tufts University in Grafton.

This educational workshop has been developed to update participants on current Massachusetts slaughterhouse operating requirements. There will be some discussion about proposed future slaughterhouse requirements. Speakers will include Sal Morelli of the USDA Compliance & Investigation Division, John Farrell of the state Department of Public Health and Dr. Lorraine O'Connor of the Department of Food and Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Health.

There is no charge for this workshop. For more information, contact Anneli Johnson or Mary Jordan at DFA 617-626-1755 or 1750. ■

Concert to Benefit The Farm School

Noted musicians Jonatha Brooke, Rob Wasserman, Grateful Dead bandmember Bob Weir and special guests will take to the stage Sunday, April 16th at Sanders Theater in Cambridge for an evening of rock, folk and blues to kick off The Farm School's \$1.5 million Capital Campaign

Located in Athol, The Farm School offers urban and suburban school children the real, hands-on experience of working a family farm through three to five day residential programs. Proceeds from the event will enable The Farm School to buy the farm and permanently root its educational program. Tickets are available through the Harvard Box Office 617-496-2222 (TTY 617-495-1642). For information about The Farm School, visit www.farmschool.org, or call 978-249-9944.

This publication is available in alternate formats upon request and on the World Wide Web at www.massgrown.org.



Agro-Tech Program Awards Announced

Following approval by the Board of Food and Agriculture, the Department of Food and Agriculture will award 11 grants totaling \$135,602 to fund projects under the Agro-Environmental Technology Grant Program. The intent of this program is to fund demonstration projects, feasibility analyses and applied research designed to address Massachusetts' agriculturally related environmental concerns and agricultural needs and opportunities.

This year's funded projects are:

1. Berkshire Regional Food and Land Council, West Stockbridge - "Berkshire Grown" website. \$4,400.
2. Colleen and Glenn Caffery, Leyden - "Green" Greenhouse Kit: Development of an Affordable, Easily Constructed, Energy Efficient Greenhouse for Massachusetts Growers. \$7,465
3. Cape Cod Cranberry Growers' Association, Wareham - Economies of Scale and Renovation Efficiency Study for Massachusetts Cranberry Industry. \$10,000
4. Cranberry Institute, Wareham - Use of Lignocellulosic Materials as Pesticide Residue Sorbents. \$9,500
5. The Forest and Wood Products Institute, Gardner - Massachusetts Wood Recovery Project to create new markets for Massachusetts forest products. \$30,000
6. Lenox Institute of Water Technology, Lenox - Feasibility of Fathead Minnow Culture in a Re-circulating Aquaculture System. \$4,793
7. Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc., Seekonk - Applying and Promoting Environmentally Sound Advanced Agricultural Technology on Farms and in the Classroom. \$15,000
8. Massachusetts Cider Guild, Sterling - An Educational Project for Cider Mill Certification Upgrade in Massachusetts. \$4,000
9. Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation, Inc., Ashland - Massachusetts Hay Marketing Internet Website. \$10,000
10. Red Tomato, Canton - Freshness and Flavor: the Last Frontier, a distribution and promotion system. \$39,740
11. Edward Stockman, Summit Farm, Plainfield - Growing Crops of Lesser Value Under Row Covers. \$704

The Agro-Tech program is now in its sixth year. For more information, contact Craig Richov at 508-792-7711. ■

FARM-CITY CONNECTIONS

School Gardens Project Update

A small group interested in the promotion and development of school gardens across the state met in March, appropriately at the New England Spring Flower Show. This is the third gathering of the participants, primarily educators and horticulturists, initially convened by Commissioner Jay Healy to explore the subject.

A survey, designed by UMass Extension Educator Will Snyder and grad student Alice Mohrman, was sent to all Massachusetts school principals and has been well received. There has been a 10 percent return, with more than 300 principals reporting, according to Snyder.

As we learn more about what kinds of gardening activities are going on at schools across the state, and what schools need most in the way of support and information, we will plan how best to be of assistance. We do know that nurseries and garden centers in various Bay State cities and towns are already partnering with schools and we encourage this happy connection.

If you are, or know, a grower of nursery products, flowering plants and shrubs, or perhaps a company that supplies gardening tools and accessories that would be interested in helping young people learn about horticulture and gardening, please give us a call at 617-626-1735. We can help you partner with a school in your area. This can be a rewarding experience for you that will bring the youngsters meaningful information and a lifetime of enjoyment.

Massachusetts Envirothon takes on Agriculture!

The year 2000 Massachusetts Envirothon will be held May 2nd at Gore Place in Waltham. This year, the subject of agriculture will be an added chapter in the teachers' manual used by the high schools entering the statewide competition.

The agriculture section in the booklet includes topics such as Massachusetts soils, sprawl and its consequences, dairying, on-farm composting, IPM, aquaculture, DFA programs and sustainable agriculture.

The program combines curriculum with hands-on field experiences and demonstrate the role people have in important environmental issues such as forestry and wildlife management, water quality, the development of greenways and soil erosion.

This year more than 12 after school workshops have been planned at schools across the state for students and their coaches to prepare for the statewide competition. The national Envirothon will be hosted in Massachusetts in 2002.

For more information, phone 978-692-0790. For more info on various agriculture education programs, phone Janet Christensen at 617-626-1735. ■

CORRECTION

Two incorrect phone numbers were published in the January issue of the Farm & Market Report. The organizations and their correct phone numbers are below. We apologize for any inconvenience these errors may have caused.

Western Massachusetts Center for Sustainable Aquaculture 413-559-5776.

C.A.R.E (Caring about our Residential Elderly), (Community Garden Project Needs Land) 978-282-3160.

1st U.S. Aquaculture Census Published

The nation's first census of aquaculture revealed some interesting facts and confirmed some expectations about one of agriculture's fastest growing sectors.

The 1998 census, conducted by the USDA National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS), provided the first detailed picture of the U.S. aquaculture industry and revealed that Massachusetts generated nearly \$9 million in aquaculture products representing a 12 percent increase over the estimated \$8 million produced in previous years.

The census of aquaculture contains information about food fish, baitfish, mollusks, crustaceans, ornamental fish, sport/game fish, algae and sea vegetables, and other fish and aquacultural products. For more aquaculture and agricultural statistics, visit the NASS web site at www.usda.gov/nass/. For more information or to order a printed copy email nass@nass.usda.gov or call 800-727-9540. ■

Farm & Market Report Monthly

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Farmers' Markets Seeking Vendors for 2000 Season

The following farmers' markets are seeking vendors for the coming growing season. The products they need are listed. Please call the contacts listed below for more information.

- **Acushnet**, The Acushnet Conservation Commission is looking to start a farmers' market this season. Monica Welden at 508-998-0202.
- **Adams**, Wednesdays, Noon - 3:00 pm, Opens July 19th. Fruit and vegetable growers. Everett Randall, 413-743-3111.
- **Arlington**, Wednesdays, 1:00pm - 6:00pm. Opens July 5. Vegetable grower, turkey products, cheese, eggs. Oakes Plimpton, 781-891-6689 days, 781-648-5117, eves.
- **Cambridgeport**, Saturdays, 10:30 am - 3:30pm. Opens mid-June. Organic grower and baker. Soojung Kang, 617-354-2103.
- **Cambridge/Charles Square**, Sundays, 10:00am - 3:00pm. Opens June 11. Eggs, chicken, turkey products. Tim Garboski, 508-883-3397.
- **Charlestown/Boston**, Wednesdays, 2:00pm - 7:00pm. Opens July 19. All types of growers. Colleen Justice, 617-241-8866.
- **Dudley Town Common/Boston**, Tuesday and Thursdays, 4:00pm - 7:00pm, Opens June 1. Value-added products, breads, eggs, fish, meat, fruit and specialty vegetables. Sara Cobyln, 781-259-8621.
- **Fitchburg**, Tuesday and Friday, 8:45am - Noon, Opens July 6th. Fruit and vegetable growers. Rachel Gonzalez, 978-544-6063.
- **Holden Tuesday Evening**, Tuesdays, 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm, Opens May 9. Small fruit and bakers. Jacqui Marsh, 978-874-0244.
- **Melrose**, Thursdays, 10:00 am - 3:00pm, Opens June 22. Vegetable and cheese producers. Sally Frank, 781-324-9648.
- **Natick**, Saturdays, 9:00am - 1:00pm. Opens June 17. Value-added products. Debra Sayre, 508-653-6596.
- **Orange**, Thursdays, 3:00pm - 6:00pm, Opens June 22. All types of growers. Judy Wilkey, 978-544-2758.
- **Orleans**, Saturdays, 8:00am - Noon. Opens May 20. All types of produce. Off Cape farmers considered up until April annual meeting. Gretel Norgeot, 508-255-8374.
- **Pittsfield/Berkshire Area**, Wednesday and Saturdays, 8:00 am - 2:00pm. Opens in May. Organic produce, Asian vegetables. Kenneth Wirtes, 413-499-1012.
- **Quincy**, Fridays, 11:30am - 5:00pm. Opens June 30. Breads, crafts. Harry Johnson, 617-479-1601.
- **South End/Boston**, Wednesdays, 3:00pm - 7:00pm, Opens July 12. Fruit growers, vegetables, chinese greens, collard greens, kale, hot peppers.
- **Springfield Cooperative**, Saturdays, 7:00 am - 11:00 am. Opens April 29. Organic growers, growers with specialty crops, value added items. Al Fini, 413-786-1012.
- **Springfield at the X**, Tuesdays, 1:00pm - 6:00pm, Opens May 2. Organic growers. Belle Rita Novak, 413-737-1724.
- **Topsfield**, Saturdays, 8:00 am - Noon. Opens July 8. Fruit and vegetable growers. Jane Cook, 978-922-1648.
- **Waltham**, Saturdays, 9:30am - 2:30pm. Opens June 17. Turkey products, organic growers, mushrooms, flowers, maple, honey, jams, Asian/Latino produce. Jennifer Rose or Marc Rudnick, 781-893-0361.
- **Worcester/Westside**, Wednesdays, 9:30am - 2:00pm, Opens June 14. Organic grower and herbs. Andrew O'Keefe, 508-753-7761.
- **Worcester Common**, Mondays and Fridays, 9:30am - 2:00pm. Opens June 12. Organic grower and herbs. Andrew O'Keefe, 508-753-7761. ■

Build-Your-Own-Computer Workshop Planned

The Federation of Massachusetts Farmers' Markets (FMFM) has planned an innovative workshop that will give farmers the opportunity to build their own computer at below-market cost and learn basic computing skills. The workshop will be held at the UMass Extension Center in Waltham on Thursday, March 30th and is open to all Massachusetts farmers and others interested in Massachusetts agriculture.

This workshop will provide the hands-on experience to understand computers from the inside out, gaining confidence to start using computers or to expand your use of computers on the farm.

The price covers the wholesale cost of the computer components, software and other nominal expenses. You will receive components to build a 400 MHz Celeron processor computer, upgradable to Pentium III, with 32 megabytes of RAM, a 15 inch monitor, 8 gigabyte hard drive, mouse, keyboard, 56K modem, 48 speed CD-ROM drive, speakers, surge protector and Windows 98 operating system.

The Federation has requested funding from several sources to cover some of the workshop expenses. Depending on this funding, the cost will range from \$625-\$735. For details contact Jeff Cole or Amy Todd, 781-893-8777.

How to Place a Classified Ad

Classified ads are accepted free-of-charge on a first-come basis only. Listings are limited to 25 words. Be sure to include a phone number. No display ads will be accepted. Only one listing per farm or business per issue unless space permits. Ads may run in consecutive issues, space permitting, providing we are notified before the deadline for each issue.

Listings must be of interest to Massachusetts farmers. The Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture reserves the right to refuse any listing it deems inappropriate for publication.

Send typewritten or neatly printed ad copy to: Farm & Market Report, Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture, 100 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02202, fax: 617-626-1850, e-mail: dbaedecker@state.ma.us or call Diane Baedecker Petit at 617-626-1752.

CLASSIFIEDS

THEY'RE HERE! Old Mountain Farm Nigerian Dwarf Dairy Goats, Y2K kids. Bottlefed, disease free. show quality, brown, blue eyed. Starting at \$125.00. York, ME. (207)361-2126 or olmtfarm@awi.net

FARM CARPENTER. Licensed, insured builder wants to expand customers to include MA farmers. Troubleshooting, build/repair house, barn, outbuildings. References. Have tools, will travel! Call Marty at (978) 544-2203.

Cape Cod, health problems forces sale after 28 years, 3 1/2 acre, retail/wholesale Greenhouse Business plus home, call Jim (508) 394-1192 or <http://www.capecod.net/capecodbusinessforsale>

Woods Mower model #59. 5' Mower Deck, mulching capability, \$600. Call Harris MacDonald at 508-653-1129

Business planning and business funding for the food and agriculture industry. 20 years experience. Call Woody Pratt at Sherwood Consultants. 617-232-8818, spratt@quik.com

Half barrel oak whiskey barrel planters \$25.00 ea. cash and carry. 1-413-786-2489

Apprentice/new farms - single or couple. Help on cranberry bog - organic since 1988. Housing, stipend and land for your own crop. P/T work: May-Oct., work F/T: Oct.-Dec. Plymouth, MA. Bob or Kristine, 508-888-9179.

Blue clay for sale @ \$3/yd. Loam for \$8/yd. Gary Thorpe, 781-826-7549.

Pollinating beehives for rent for spring and summer crops in the Pioneer Valley area. Honey for sale: available in 60# pails, 1lbs, 2lbs., and 5 lbs. jars ready for resale. Great item to add to offerings for farm stands and markets. Contact Spensley Rickert, 413-247-0237.

Dairy goats for sale: ADGA registered, purebred nubian kids - \$350 ea. These babies will be weaned and ready for their new homes in early spring. Reserve yours now. Orchid Patch, Southbridge, MA 508-764-3388.

If you have a kind heart and gentle hands, Orchid Patch has a few very special llamas for sale. \$500-\$5000. Or will swap for hay. Southbridge, MA 508-764-3388.

For sale: native lumber. Boards, beams, wood chips, bark mulch, sawdust. Wagner Farms, Amherst, MA. Call 413-253-5194, lve msg.

Labels: lowest prices, custom printed. Any size, shape and quantity. Your product will sell faster with the perfect label on it. Call Michael at Kokua, 508-634-2040.

25 acre APR farm for sale to organic/IPM farmer. Bottom land in organic transition, Main St., highly visible, pond, poly-houses, pole barn. Great potential: CSA, farmstand, market garden.... 1999 stand gross \$265K. Sheffield Land Trust, PO Box 940, Sheffield, MA 01257, 413-229-0234, 229-3092.

The Hsystem is a nutrient/manure wastewater treatment system based on the use of constructed wetlands techniques to treat agricultural wastewater. Call 508-763-5253.

Corn silage for sale. 413-772-0790.

Honey bees & supplies. Our northern bred 3 frame nucleus, \$54, 4 frame \$67, 5 frame \$80. The 3 frame nucleus is equal to a 5 lb pkg of bees. The nucleus frames are free. Lagrant's 413-967-5064, lagrants@aol.com.

Dry Rd. (1st cut) & square bales under cover. Good horse & cattle quality. Also wrapped Rd. (2nd cut). Del. avail. M. Huse, Bradford VT, 802-222-4664 lv msg. shfmaple@sover.net.

Wanted: used pressure sensitive labeling machine for bottling operation. Call Kathy, 978-544-2820, fax 978-544-2896, myrns@valinet.com.

Ag. Environmental Program Funds Allocated For FY00

MDFA's Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program received 80 applications for the \$350,000 available to help farmers address water quality issues on their farms. Applications are no longer being accepted since the funds have been allocated. A listing of who received funds will be available on MDFA's web site, www.massdfa.org, in late April.

Farms that potentially impact a public water supply were given priority for funding. Approximately 25 farms will receive assistance. Examples of projects include pesticide mixing pads, roofs for manure storage facilities, flumes, pond liners, fencing, seed for buffers, compost pads and cement for manure storage pits.

Funding for AEEP in FY01 will become available in July, contingent on legislative funding. For more information, contact Susan Phinney at 617-626-1772.

MDC to partner with DFA in Wachusett Reservoir

The Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) is working with MDFA and the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service to provide financial assistance to farmers near the Wachusett Reservoir to implement best management practice to improve water quality. MDC has allocated \$30,000 for projects such as fencing livestock away from sensitive water resources, installing filter strips, building a manure storage pad and installing drainage. ■

Calendar

- ◆ March 21 **Diversifying the Farm II** (part of the "Enhancing Farm Profits" series of evening programs sponsored by the Southeastern Mass. Agricultural Partnership) 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the UMass Cranberry Experiment Station, Wareham. Call 508-375-6690 for further information.
- ◆ March 28 **Adding Value to What You Grow** (part of the "Enhancing Farm Profits" series of evening programs sponsored by the Southeastern Mass. Agricultural Partnership) 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the UMass Cranberry Experiment Station, Wareham. Call 508-375-6690 for further information.
- ◆ March 28 **Ag Day at the State House.** Contact Susan Allen, 617-626-1751, Susan.Allen@state.ma.us.
- ◆ March 29 **Start & Grow Your Own Business**, 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm at the Davenport School Building, Chesterfield. Sponsored by Hilltown Community Development Corporation. To register and for more information, contact Priscilla Caouette (ext. 31) or Marge Pringle (ext. 32) at 413-296-4536.
- ◆ April 4 **Agri-Tourism for Southeast Massachusetts Farms** (part of the "Enhancing Farm Profits" series of evening programs sponsored by the Southeastern Mass. Agricultural Partnership) 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the UMass Cranberry Experiment Station, Wareham. Call 508-375-6690 for further information.

First Annual Rabies Vaccination Day - April 8, 2000

The First Annual Statewide Rabies Vaccination Day is planned for Saturday, April 8. Most cities and towns across the Commonwealth will hold a low-cost rabies vaccination clinic on that day. In light of some frightening statistics concerning rabies, MDFA is implementing this program to raise awareness of rabies and increase compliance with state vaccination laws.

Statewide Rabies Vaccination Day is sponsored by MDFA in cooperation with the Mass. Dept. of Public Health, the Mass. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Animal Rescue League of Boston, the Mass. Veterinary Medical Assoc., the Veterinary Assoc. of the North Shore and the Cape Cod Veterinary Assoc.

All dogs, cats and ferrets living in Massachusetts are required by law to be vaccinated against rabies. Statistics show that just over 75 percent of dogs in Massachusetts are currently vaccinated. Only about 30 percent of Bay State cats are up-to-date on their rabies shots. More than 450 dogs and cats are exposed to rabid animals in Massachusetts in an average year.

Vaccinating your dog or cat is the best way to prevent the threat of rabies from entering your home. Keeping your pets up-to-date on their rabies shots is not only the law, it is in the best interest for the health of your animals and your family. ■

3/00

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